

*AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS*

1. (Currently Amended) A positive-working lithographic printing plate precursor comprising (i) a grained and anodized aluminum support having a hydrophilic surface and (ii) a heat-sensitive oleophilic coating provided on the hydrophilic surface, wherein said coating comprises (a) a hydrophobic polymer which is soluble in an aqueous alkaline developer and (b) a dissolution inhibitor which is a water-repellent polymer and wherein said coating is capable of dissolving in said developer at a higher dissolution rate in areas of said coating which are exposed to heat or infrared light than in unexposed areas, wherein the hydrophilic surface has a surface roughness, measured according to ISO 4288 and expressed as arithmetical mean center-line roughness Ra, which is less than 0.40  $\mu\text{m}$ , ~~and~~ wherein the hydrophilic surface comprises a salt of titanium, hafnium or zirconium, and wherein the water-repellant polymer is a block- or graft-copolymer of a poly(alkylene oxide) block and a block comprising siloxane and/or perfluoroalkyl units.

2. (Original) A plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein said salt comprises fluoride.

3. (Previously Presented) A plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein said hydrophilic surface further comprises an orthophosphate.

4. (Previously Presented) A plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein said hydrophilic surface has a surface roughness, expressed as arithmetical mean center-line roughness Ra, which is less than 0.3  $\mu\text{m}$ .

5. (Previously Presented) A plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein said aluminum support comprises more than 3.0 g/m<sup>2</sup> of aluminum oxide at the hydrophilic surface.

6. (Previously Presented) A plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein said aluminum support comprises more than  $4.0 \text{ g/m}^2$  of aluminum oxide at the hydrophilic surface.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Previously Presented) A plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein said water-repellent polymer is present in a separate layer on top of said coating.

9. (Previously Presented) A plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein said coating further comprises another dissolution inhibitor which is an organic compound comprising an aromatic group and a hydrogen bonding site.

10. (Previously Presented) A plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution accelerator.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of making a positive-working lithographic printing plate precursor comprising the steps of

- graining and anodizing an aluminum support,
  - treating said grained and anodized aluminum support with a solution comprising a salt of titanium, hafnium and zirconium, and
  - applying on said treated aluminum support a heat-sensitive oleophilic coating,
- wherein said coating comprises (a) a hydrophobic polymer which is soluble in an aqueous alkaline developer and (b) a dissolution inhibitor which is a water-repellent polymer, wherein said coating is capable of dissolving in said developer at a higher dissolution rate in areas of said coating which are exposed to heat or infrared light than in unexposed areas, ~~and~~ wherein the surface of said grained and anodized aluminum support is hydrophilic and has a surface roughness, measured according to ISO 4288 and expressed as arithmetical mean center-line roughness  $R_a$ , which is less than  $0.40 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$ , and wherein the water-repellant

polymer is a block- or graft-copolymer of a poly(alkylene oxide) block and a block comprising siloxane and/or perfluoroalkyl units.

12. (Previously Presented) A method of making a positive-working lithographic printing plate comprising the steps of

- providing a positive-working lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1,
- image-wise exposing said heat-sensitive coating to infrared light or heat, and
- developing said image-wise exposed heat-sensitive coating with an aqueous alkaline developer, wherein the exposed areas of said coating dissolve in said alkaline developer at a higher dissolution rate than in unexposed areas of said coating.

13. (Canceled).

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.